

# SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

### TRUSTEES:

GEORGE STROM, CHAIRMAN (2003)  
FRANCES WHITNEY, VICE – CHAIR, (2004)  
BARBARA CARPENTER, SECRETARY (2005)  
JOAN T. BARRY, (2005)  
ALICE CANTY (2003) to complete a term  
CAROL B. CULLEN, (2004)  
CARL A. LARSON, (2003)  
KEVIN A. MCKENNA, (2005)  
ROSEMARY RENNIE, (2004)

### MEETINGS:

The Library Board of Trustees meets the Fourth Tuesday of every month  
(excluding July and August) at the Library, 7:30P.M.

### LIBRARY DIRECTOR:

BONNIE L. O'BRIEN

### HOLDINGS as of December 31, 2002

VOLUMES	131,310
ART PRINTS	334
VIDEOCASSETTES	2,949
DVD'S	323

COMPACT DISCS	
BOOKS ON CD	197
MUSIC	2,390
AUDIOCASSETTES	
BOOKS ON TAPE	2,977
MUSIC	1,016
MULTIMEDIA KITS	502
PERIODICALS SUBSCRIPTIONS	140
NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS	14
CD-ROM	197
BOOK & CD	37
ON-LINE RESOURCES (E-BOOKS)	6,547

The Library was open on Sundays from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM through Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Library was closed on Sundays until September 8<sup>th</sup> when it re-opened for Sunday hours. Sunday hours have proved most popular with Library patrons. The Library is happy to be able to provide these hours of service for its patrons.

The Library provides Internet access for patrons via the Town's fiber optic cable. There are six PC's, which are IBM compatible, for patrons to use to access the Internet, as well as one IMAC in the Children's Area. By using the Internet, patrons are able to access a number of databases provided through MLIN (Massachusetts Library Information Network). The databases available include: Expanded Academic ASAP; Health and Wellness Reference Center; General Business File ASAP; Contemporary Authors; Contemporary Literary Criticism – Select; Biography Resource Center; Health Reference Center Academic; PROMT; Business and Company Resource Center with PROMT; Info Trac One File; and, General Reference Center. Through the C/WMARS automated network, patrons can access Novelist which is an electronic readers' advisory resource assisting fiction readers in finding new authors and titles. The Library provides on-line Poem Finder and Facts on File. In CD-ROM format, the Library has Gale's Quotations,

Masterplots, Massachusetts General Laws, Code of Massachusetts Regulations, the Dictionary of American Biography, 2001 Tax Information, College Source, an Atlas, the Human Body, and World Book Encyclopedia are available for use on the IBM compatibles. Grolier's Encyclopedia is available on the IMAC in the Children's Area. The Children's Area also has: Counting on Frank; Reading Blaster; Where in the World is Carmen San Diego?; Where in the United States is Carmen San Diego?. Mario teaches typing 2, Mario's FUNdamentals and Math Blaster are loaded on the Children's Room IMAC. Children's Services has purchased a number of educational CD-ROM's to circulate. The Library will continue to provide additional databases as they become available to us and as funding permits.

The Friends of the Library is an organization that works to support the Library and its' programs. The Friends held their annual Book Sale on the Saturday following Mother's Day. They continue to sell 'Be a Friend' aprons and FRIENDS' book bags. The Friends purchase Polaroid film on an on-going basis so that when children receive their first library card they can have their picture taken. This has proved a big hit with the children. The Staff and Trustees thank the Friends for their continued support. The Friends are always looking for new members. Please inquire at the front desk for more information.

A wide variety of programs was presented throughout the year and included a mask making program for adults; a college preparation workshop for parents and students; Donna Williams' talk on the Blackstone River Watershed; Oasis Poetry featuring Alicia Ostriker; Shona Ramaya read from her novel Beloved Mother: Queen of the Night and spoke about the process of writing and getting published; Annette Rafferty spoke about the 25 years of Abby's House, a shelter for women and children; and, a presentation by Dr. Helen Whall titled 'All the World His Stage: Shakespeare and the Theater'. The Library hosted the "Clothesline Project" in conjunction with the local ADVISE (Against Domestic Violence In Shrewsbury Education Project) group in October. The Library, through AARP, provided tax help on eleven Saturdays during the months of February, March and April. The Library offers a Newcomers' Orientation and Basic Internet Training to its patrons several times a month. The Library's Great Books Discussion Group meets the third Tuesday of each month to discuss books of interest to the group. Anyone interested in the group should inquire at the Circulation Desk. The Library hosts a Genealogy Club which meets once a month. One month, the meeting is on a Tuesday evening and the other month the meeting is on a Thursday evening. Anyone interested in genealogy is encouraged to

join. Each Wednesday, during the month of July, members of the Embroidery Guild of America demonstrated their skills in the lobby of the Library from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Completed projects were on exhibit in the Library's display cases.

Beginning in April, the Library began a series of programs on Islam. The first program was presented by Dr. Mohamed Lazzouni, President of a Cambridge software company and Iman (religious leader) for a number of local mosques. Dr. Lazzouni spoke about the culture, religion and the history of Islam. In May, Dr. Riaz Khan, professor at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell spoke about 'Life in the Islamic Perspective'. In June, Hafiz Hamid Mahmood gave another talk on the Middle East. The September program featured Dr. Kayed Khalil and his wife, Amy, talking about their Muslim-Jewish interfaith marriage. They talked about the problems they have encountered and the solutions they have worked out. The November program featured Dr. Edmund Hanauer, director of Search for Justice and Equality in Palestine/Israel, who spoke about various approaches to a just Arab-Israeli peace.

Library staff attended numerous workshops provided by the Regional Library System to member libraries, as well as those provided by the Massachusetts Library Association, the New England Library Association, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, C/WMARS and NELINET. During the year, Library Staff attended numerous training sessions given by C/WMARS on various aspects of the Innovative Interfaces Inc. software.

In the fall of 2001, the Library was awarded two LSTA grants through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. One grant focuses on Customer Service and the other is a Preservation Grant. The Customer Service grant ran from November of 2001 through September of 2002. Four Friday morning training sessions for the staff were held on: stress management; customer relations; team building; and, the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. A survey for customer feedback

was created and mailed to all residents who receive water from the town. Additional copies were available for out-of-town customers. Surveys could be returned to the Treasurer's office in Town Hall, at the Senior Center, or returned to the Library. A staff handbook was created and distributed to all Library employees. New signboards that draw attention to up-coming events and programs at the Library were purchased, as well as a 26-inch TV/VCR (combined in a single unit) and several videos on customer relations. As a result of the survey, we are planning more adult and young adult programs that will have a broader appeal. A large part of our efforts have

gone to improving channels of communication between staff and customers, as well as between and among staff members. Finally, built into the proposal, was the commitment to continue with staff training events on a regular basis. As a result of the Preservation Grant along with matching funds from the Library, a preservation survey of the Library was conducted by the Northeast Document Conservation Center. Completing this grant will permit the Library to pursue additional preservation grants in the future. Several of the recommendations in the report have already been implemented.

The Library Director is a member of: the Massachusetts Library Association's Legislative Committee; the Central Massachusetts Regional Libraries Breakfast Committee; the Executive Committee of C/W MARS; and, chair of the C/W MARS Finance Committee.

The Library provides an OUTREACH SERVICE to any resident of town (regardless of age) who is unable to come to the Library. In addition, the Library provides deposit collection to various Day Care facilities in town, the Montessori School, Shrewsbury Nursing Home, Southgate, Shrewsbury Crossings and Westbrook Crossings. Please encourage anyone you know who might benefit from this service to call the Library at 508-841-8535.

The Shrewsbury Public Library in conjunction with the American Library Association sponsors Library Card Sign-up Month during the month of September. In order to promote literacy and to encourage reading, members of the Children's Services and Outreach staffs visited all of the second grade classes in the elementary schools in Town to insure that any second grade pupil whose parent or guardian would like them to have a Library Card, has one. Stories were read to the children. The students who received new library cards signed them. Each child in the class received a bookmark. Prior to the visit to each school, library card applications and a letter explaining the library card program were sent home to all second grade parents or guardians. They were asked to complete and return to the school the form if they wanted their child to have a card. This year, 91 cards were issued to second graders who, previously, had not had a library card.

During the school year, Children's Services provides a variety of storytimes for preschoolers. This past year, two sessions of parent/toddler storytimes were held for children two-and-a-half years old who were accompanied by an adult. In the spring and the fall, the Library continues to offer two storytimes per week for three-and-a-half to six year olds. During the year, Children's

Services offered three ‘Lapsit Storytimes’ for children from birth to two-and-a-half years old. Children are accompanied by an adult and may also bring a sibling with them to this particular storytime. During the summer, the Library participated in the ‘Star\*Spangled Summer’ Reading Program sponsored in conjunction with Regional Children’s Services throughout the state. One hundred ninety-five children registered for the ‘Star\*Spangled Summer’ Reading Program. The reading program focuses on the amount of time spent reading rather than on the number of books read. Each participant had to read at least fifteen minutes every day. Participants had to record in a logbook the title of the books they read and the amount of time spent reading. Participants had to bring their logbooks to the Children’s Room during specific check-in times and answer a general question about the book. In seven weeks, ONE HUNDRED-THIRTY-SIX PARTICIPANTS read a total of ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX HOURS AND SEVEN MINUTES!!!!!!!. This total is two-hundred and sixty-two more hours than was read in the summer of 2001. Congratulations to all of the students who participated.

The “Read-To-Me” Program is designed for non-readers and their parents or guardians. Sixty-one children listened to books for THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE HOURS AND ELEVEN MINUTES. This total is one-hundred forty-nine hours more than was listened to last summer.

On Monday evenings during the summer, four evening storytimes were held in the courtyard off the Children’s Area. Sixty-five children participated.

Six storytimes on the Common were held in the bandstand on Friday mornings. One hundred and thirteen children attended.

In conjunction with the ‘Star\*Spangled Summer’ Reading Program, twenty-nine children participated in three craft programs.

A picnic was held for ‘Star\*Spangled Summer’ Reading Program participants and their families on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> on the lawn outside the Library.

During the course of the summer reading programs, five hundred and forty coupons and passes were distributed to the children. The passes included: 24 passes to the Basketball Hall of Fame; 17 passes to the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History; 40 passes to the Children’s Museum of Holyoke; 23 passes to the Concord Museum; 25 passes for Connecticut River Cruises; 58 passes

for the Ecotarium; 20 passes for the Green Briar Nature Center; 13 passes to Hancock Shaker Village; 52 passes to the Higgins Armory Museum; 4 passes to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; 12 passes for the New Bedford Whaling Museum; 78 passes to the New England Aquarium; 40 Old Sturbridge Village passes; 28 passes for the Salem Witch Museum; 45 Seven Seas Whale Watch passes; 9 passes to the Sports Museum; 5 passes to the Springfield Museums at the Quadrangle; 19 passes for the Zoo in Forest Park; and, 29 passes for the Zoo New England.

Again this summer, R.E.C.E.S.S. (Reading Everyday Can Ensure School Success) was run by the School Department and coordinated by Chris Gustafson and Rosemary Royer. The program was run in conjunction with the Shrewsbury Public Library and the Shrewsbury School Committee. Children entering grades K through 6 could sign up at the Library and hear one of the assigned books read aloud to them. The sessions were conducted by community volunteers who included discussion and related activities. Twenty-two sessions were held between July 9<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Public Library. A total of four-hundred and twenty children participated in the R.E.C.E.S.S. program. All reading materials needed by the volunteers were supplied by the School Department. Audiocassette copies of some of the required readings were available at the Library for use by Special Education students.

Throughout the year, the following special programs and events were held: three 'After School Craft' programs; a Valentine workshop; an after school, 'Gather Together and Read' Storytime was held before Thanksgiving; a showing of the movie **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**; a 'Hats off to Dr. Seuss' program in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, as part of the 'Read Across America' program; an after school 'Welcome Winter' storytime; three afternoon drop-in storytimes during February school vacation; and, a family holiday ornament craft program. Two special programs took place during National Library Week. Entertainer David Polansky told stories and sang songs, with audience participation strongly encouraged. A 'Celebrate Your Local Heroes' storytime included stories about firefighters. Members of the Shrewsbury Fire Department were our special guests. During a week in April, the Library worked with Floral Street School to support the schools 'Turn Off the TV Week' by hosting two 'Hang Times at the Library' for students. The third afternoon, a craft program for students was offered. Several times during the year, a 'Family Internet Training' was held which highlighted ways to access the Internet and stressed the importance of safety when using the Internet. On Wednesday evening, October 30<sup>th</sup>, a Holiday Happening was held. Spooky stories were read and songs were sung. All

of the participants came in costumes. Countless class visits, in addition to Cub Scout and Girl Scout troop tours take place throughout the year.

As part of the ‘Spirit of Shrewsbury’ celebration, the Library hosted two programs. On Thursday evening, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Susan Jorritsma, an artist who has designed many first-day-of-issue covers, walked the audience through the process of creating a cachet to accompany a new stamp (the Houdini stamp). Following this presentation, Vincent Hinson, a Shrewsbury resident and nephew of Harry Houdini, told stories about the great magician; showed pictures of some of his famous acts; and, told the audience how some of the acts were performed. The Shrewsbury Post Office offered a special cancellation on that day to commemorate the event as part of the ‘Spirit of Shrewsbury’ celebration. The post office also gave the Library a large framed mock-up of the Houdini stamp. On Saturday morning, September 28<sup>th</sup>, John McDonald and the Pumppernickle Puppets presented ‘The Frog Prince’ for children of all ages at 10:00 AM. Following the play, the children were shown how the puppets work. The Library’s OUTREACH SERVICE van participated in the ‘Spirit of Shrewsbury, 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary’ parade driven by Deborah Mayo.

On Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Library along with other departments in town, participated in Lee’s National Denim Day which is celebrated nationally. The purpose of the day is to advocate for breast cancer awareness. Anyone who wore denim to work that day made at least a \$5.00 donation to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The American Cancer Society, represented by Rev. Patricia Glore, a breast cancer survivor, presented the Library with a copy of A Breast Cancer Journal.

Four staff members participated in the Community Reading Day celebration. On Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cynthia Creedon read to a second grade class at Paton School. On Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sarah Sogigian read to a sixth grade class at Shrewsbury Middle School; Linda Johnson read to a morning and afternoon Kindergarten class at Beal School; and, Bonnie O’Brien read to all the fifth grade classes in a combined group at Coolidge School.

Young Adult services had an exciting year with a variety of programs of interest to everyone. These programs included: a mask-making workshop; two YOGA workshops; a storytime presented by the Young Adult volunteers for school-aged children; a kickboxing demonstration followed by participation by attendees; and, a handwriting analysis/palm reading program. The



Young Adult Advisory Board met on alternate months throughout the year, except for July and August, to discuss how the Library can provide better service to and for Young Adults.

The highlight of the year was the coffeehouse organized by the Young Adults. The room was decorated to resemble an outdoor café and members of the Young Adult Advisory Board served hot and cold coffee beverages to other young adults. The drinks were provided by LALAJAVA Coffee House. The teens baked brownies and cookies to go with the drinks. The Shrewsbury High School Dance Team presented a demonstration attending in the large meeting room. The Young Adult Summer Reading program titled: 'Summer Reading Road Rally', was a tremendous success. Over eighty Middle School and High School students registered for the program and received a 'license'. Participants were required to read one of the required school selections and to read one item of their choice. They, then, placed their completed license in one of the two raffle boxes in the Young Adult Room. Each participant was allowed one entry. The raffle boxes choices were for either a dirt bike helmet from Performance Cycles of Shrewsbury or a snowboard from Pete's Cycle and Sled of Worcester. The two grand prize winners were Brooke Scibelli who won the snowboard and Michael McLaughlin who won the dirt bike helmet. A special thank you to Performance Cycles and Pete's Cycle and Sled for the two awesome prizes. Thank you to the following area businesses who contributed to the Young Adult Summer Reading Raffle: Amanda Cooks, Inc; Blockbuster Video; Concrete Wave; Hebert Candies; Ike's Den; Morrissey's Garage; Newbury Comics; Scizzors; Skater Paradise; Ski Market Underground; Wachusett Mountain Ski Resort; and, White City Pizza.

Again this fall, Young Adults discarded paperback books from the circulation system whose circulation had declined. These were donated to the adolescent unit of Worcester State Hospital. Ms. Petry resigned her position as Young Adult Librarian in November. In December, Sarah Sogigian was appointed the new Young Adult Librarian/Volunteer Coordinator.

The Library Board of Trustees and Staff would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who so generously give of their time to help the Library. Volunteers perform numerous tasks on an ongoing basis which enable the staff to have more time to serve the public. The following is a list of the people who volunteered at the library this past year: Nalimi Ambady, Kate Barry, Margaret Barry, Megan Barry, Ann Biggins, Isobel Broer, Barbara Carpenter, Chelsea Durso, Virginia Deschenes-Grasberg, Dean Gillam, William Goss, Eric Hanssen, June Jardarian, Joan

Jatlke, Donna Kafel, Kay Kanchana, Kim Kroll, Chris Lynch, Joan Plumb, Nandini Rajagoplan, Ross Robbins, Kristina Sarin, Jackie Shartin, and Dorbet Thomas. An Appreciation Celebration for all Volunteers was held on Tuesday afternoon, May 21<sup>st</sup> to thank our many volunteers for the hours of service they give to the Library. If you are interested in volunteering at the Library, please inquire at the Circulation Desk.

The Library publishes a Newsletter six times a year. The fall issue of the Newsletter is sent to each household in town. The Newsletter is intended to inform the public of both new and ongoing services provided by the library, as well as to highlight new additions to the collection or special upcoming events. If you would like to be on our mailing list for the other issues of the Newsletter, please leave your name at the Circulation Desk. The printing and postage of the Newsletter for town-wide distribution is funded by Library Trust Funds.

Again this year, the Shrewsbury Rotary Club generously funded one hundred and fifty passes which would admit four people on any one day to the Ecotarium (formerly the New England Science Center). The tickets were available at the front desk on a first-come basis. Each household was limited to one ticket. The families who received the passes thank the Rotary Club for their generosity.

The Shrewsbury Child Development Committee funded two passes for the library to Davis' Farmland in Sterling Mass. The pass permits four people admission for only \$1.00 per person. The Library thanks the Shrewsbury Child Development Committee for providing this pass for patrons of the library.

The Library has passes for the Discovery Museums in Acton; the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; the John F. Kennedy Library; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Science in Boston; the National Plastics Center & Museum in Leominster; the Worcester Art Museum; and, the Worcester County Horticultural Society (Tower Hill Botanical Garden). These passes are purchased from Library Trust Funds. If you have a valid library card, are a Shrewsbury resident and are interested in reserving a pass, please call the Library at 508-842-0081- x3.

The Library thanks Alan Daniels from the H. Alan Daniels Insurance Agency, Inc., for, again, this year, providing the Library with bookmarks that have the Library's hours on them.

During this past year, the beautiful oak stairway leading from the first floor to the large meeting room was restored; new video displayers were purchased; and, the most significant change to the Library was the installation of automatic doors leading to the parking lot.

Two new people joined the staff of the Library this year. In April, Leona McDonald became the Head of Technical Services. Leona had worked for the Library many years ago as a page after graduating from high school, and later as a Library Assistant. In December, Betsy Perry joined the staff as the Library's Electronics Librarian.

A number of staff changes took place during the year and people are now in different positions. Cynthia Creedon left the Technical Services department to become the Senior Account Clerk at the Library. Patricia Haglund moved from a part-time position in Circulation to a full-time position in Technical Services. Kathy Law, who had been working as an adult page, was appointed to a part-time position at the Circulation desk. In December, Sarah Sogigian was appointed to the Young Adult Librarian/Volunteer Coordinator position.